

part of the Unitarian Church, located at the intersection of Valley Road and Church Street.

The Carnegie Corporation gave Montclair a second sum of \$40,000 for the construction of the Bellevue Avenue Branch. The Bellevue Avenue Branch Library opened on December 26, 1914. The original design of the building remains intact today.

In February 1942, Montclair Public Library became the first public library in the United States to have a computerized circulation system. The International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) designed the Library's first ever punch card data processing system and equipment to record the loan and return of books. Librarians from all over the world visited Montclair to witness this pioneering venture.

Having outgrown the library building on Church Street, its home for 50 years, a new Main Library was built in 1955. The Davella Mills Foundation donated the former site of Dr. Love's home at 50 South Fullerton Avenue as the site for the new library building. They also contributed \$250,000 toward the \$800,000 construction cost.

The Montclair Public Library began community outreach in 1969 with bookmobiles in parks, playgrounds and on neighborhood street corners. Library use jumped 40 percent in two years as a result.

Neighborhood Information Center Helps Everyone (NICHE) was initiated as a federally funded community information and referral service in 1974. The goal of NICHE was to provide information as a catalyst for social change. It existed in a storefront at 375 Bloomfield Avenue from 1974 to 1977 and was fully incorporated into Montclair Public Library in 1979.

The Montclair Public Library was named one of the top five libraries in the nation by Library Journal in 2002. The Library also received the Bessie Bohme Moore Award for services to seniors in that year. Simultaneously, the Montclair Public Library Foundation was established to develop new financial resources exclusively for Montclair Public Library.

In 2004, the Montclair Public Library celebrated the Centennial anniversary of its first purpose built public library building on Church Street, the Library's home for 50 years until a new building was erected on its current site at 50 South Fullerton Avenue in 1954. The Centennial was an opportunity to renew community appreciation for Montclair Public Library's rich history and revitalize interest in Library assets.

The library has been in integral part of the greater Montclair community and has exceeded its mission to change lives every day through words, ideas and community connections.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating the Montclair Public Library on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF VERONICA BRAKER'S DISTINGUISHED WORK AT BASF

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Veronica Braker for her distinguished work as Vice President of Operations Performance Materials at BASF. She has been an outstanding leader for the company and Wyandotte plant for years.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Production (STEP) Ahead Awards Gala is an annual celebration to honor women in manufacturing who are providing leadership in their companies. American women make up approximately 50 percent of the country's workforce, but only 29 percent of the manufacturing industry, and STEP Ahead seeks to highlight the women who are paving the way for a more inclusive and equal field of work. The Manufacturing Institute is recognizing 130 women in manufacturing from across the country who are leaders in their respective fields and positions, ranging from shop worker to company executive. Veronica Braker is extremely deserving of this recognition for the work that she has done for BASF North America through her leadership.

Graduating from Christian Brothers University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Mrs. Braker worked for a variety of companies including Milliken & Company, The Clorox Company, GE, Flint Hills Resources, before joining BASF as a Manufacturing Manager in 2011. Since working at BASF, Ms. Braker has held multiple positions including Head of Operations for North America-Performance Materials and her current position, Vice President of Operations-Performance Materials. She has always been passionate about the environment, safety, and health, and seeks to better conditions in BASF facilities throughout North America. She is known at BASF for her positivity, hard work and ingenuity. Throughout her career, she has opened doors a little wider for the women who came after her, including the creation of a three-year career development program for women at the company. She is truly deserving of recognition at tonight's Annual STEP Ahead Awards Gala, and I look forward to seeing her continued contributions to the manufacturing industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Veronica Braker for her lifetime of work in the manufacturing industry. She has provided distinguished leadership in the field for over 25 years.

HONORING JEAN GASPAR

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents who is celebrating a remarkable milestone in her cancer journey. Jean Gaspar of Palm Harbor is celebrating 10 years of good health following her diagnosis of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) in 2008.

To give back after her cancer diagnosis, Jean became deeply involved with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society by volunteering with Team in Training, a program that brings individuals together as a team to train for an endurance event, and Light The Night, an event that supports treatments that are saving the lives of patients today. Through Team in Training and Light The Night, Jean has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Jean is also an active advocate for policies to help blood cancer patients. I had the privilege of meeting with Jean last May when she visited Washington, D.C. to participate in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Volunteer Leadership Conference. Jean's story is inspiring, and I enjoyed the opportunity to talk with her about policies to help blood cancer patients access their treatments.

On the heels of National Volunteer Week, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is recognizing Jean's good health and tremendous volunteerism on April 28, the night before she embarks on her first triathlon, by naming her the National Honored Teammate for the event. As the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus to Cure Blood Cancers and Other Blood Disorders, it is my privilege to join with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in congratulating Jean on reaching this health milestone and to wish her well at the St. Anthony's Triathlon on April 29.

REMEMBERING DR. RITA JACKSON SAMUELS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding businesswoman, dedicated public servant, mentor to many, trailblazer, and one of Georgia's most prolific women's rights advocates, Dr. Rita Jackson Samuels. Sadly, Dr. Samuels passed away on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at the age of 72. Her funeral service was held on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at noon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

A native of Forsyth, Georgia, Dr. Samuels attended Claflin University, Morris Brown College, and Georgia State University and received her Business & Secretarial Science Certification from Dimery's Business College in Atlanta, Georgia.

As a young woman, she worked as a secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the administrations of several influential individuals and alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1971, Dr. Samuels became the first African-American female in Georgia's history to serve on the personal staff of a Georgia Governor as then-Governor Jimmy Carter's Coordinator of the Governor's Council on Human Relations. Governor Carter personally selected her to oversee the hanging of the Martin Luther King, Jr. portrait in the Georgia State Capitol. After Carter became president, she worked as a consultant with his

White House Staff in 1977. In 1983, served as Director of the Office of Citizens & Community Affairs under former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and on the national board of a National Anti-Poverty Rural Development Agency.

Dr. Samuels was not only a dedicated public servant but also a strong and passionate innovator and activist who fought tirelessly to preserve women's history and made sure that the achievements of African-American women were properly recognized. She founded the Georgia Coalition of Black Women, Inc. in 1981; advocated for the creation of the Georgia Commission on Women in 1991 and the Atlanta Commission on Women in 2001; and was the co-founder of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda and Women Flying High, LLC, a 100 percent female-owned business enterprise that is dedicated to increasing women's share of public and private sector contracts, in 2005. She also founded "The Ballot Power" of Women Voters Lecture Series and the Women in Government Internship and produced "Sisterhood Voices" on the Air Radio Show. She helped to launch the careers of several African-American woman leaders from rural Georgia counties who would go on to serve as mayors, commissioners, and judges.

Over the course of her life, she served as on a variety of boards and in a number of organizations at the local, state, and national levels. She also received numerous awards and commendations, including "Keys to the City" of several cities, including her hometown of Forsyth, Georgia. Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed her to the State Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission and appointed her as the first African American to serve on the Georgia State Election Board. She was subsequently reappointed to the King Commission by Governors Zell Miller and Roy Barnes.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing to help others?'" Dr. Samuels undoubtedly lived by this philosophy as she committed a prodigious amount of time and love in service to others and shared her enthusiasm and wisdom to better those around her. Moreover, The great Agricultural chemist George Washington Carver once said that, "It does not matter how much money you have in the bank; it does not matter what kind of car you drive; it does not matter how big the house is that you live in; it does not matter what type of profession you might be involved in; what matters in this life and what we all will be judged by is what we have done in this life as far as service to humanity." Rita served humanity well and carried out God's purpose for her life.

Rita leaves behind her loving husband of many years, Stanley, and a host of family and friends who will miss her deeply. She was a longtime member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

On a personal note, Rita was a dear friend of longstanding and valued supporter. I will miss the very sage counsel that she imparted to me over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in paying tribute to Dr. Rita Jackson Samuels, for her legacy of service to the state of Georgia, and extending our deepest condolences to Rita's family and friends. We pray

that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
WILLIAM THOMAS SLYE, JR.,
USA, RET.

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Colonel William Thomas Slye, Jr., USA, Ret., who became an angel on February 28, 2018. LTC Slye's dedication to the United States Army, his nation, and his beloved family mark a man whose life was devoted to service to others.

A native of Washington, D.C., LTC Slye enlisted in the Navy in 1953, where he served as an aircraft engine mechanic and found his passion for aviation. While the Navy could not offer him a venue to progress in his flying aspirations, he soon enlisted in the Army to pursue their flight training program.

LTC Slye's skills did not go unnoticed and he was assigned to the Presidential Flight Detachment where he flew in the Presidential Helicopter unit for both Presidents Johnson and Nixon. His valiant efforts to keep our nation's leaders safe during tumultuous times were next to none and will never be forgotten. Following a 28-year Army career that included three tours in Vietnam, LTC Slye retired in 1981 and settled in Belton, Texas.

Along with being a skilled and decorated pilot, LTC Slye was a true family man. He married the love of his life, Wanda Rose Bridges, in 1957 and went on to raise three beautiful children: Mike, Teri, and Sandie. He lived a full and inspirational life and was actively involved in his church, Knights of Columbus, and community.

LTC Slye's dedication to both nation and family reflect the best values we hold dear in Central Texas. I salute his devotion to our highest ideals and join his loved ones in mourning his loss.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COMMISSIONER RODNEY ELLIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Former State Senator, current Harris County Commissioner, and my dear friend, Rodney Ellis for receiving an Alumni Award from Texas Southern University. The award is given to outstanding alumni who typify the TSU tradition of excellence through personal and professional accomplishment and/or community service. This is the second year the award is given.

Rodney holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Texas Southern University, a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, and a Law Degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Commis-

sioner Ellis also studied at Xavier University in New Orleans and the London School of Economics. Before his election to the Texas Senate in 1990, Rodney Ellis served three terms on the Houston City Council as well as Chief of Staff to the late United States Congressman Mickey Leland.

He, then, went on to serve in the Texas State Senate for more than 25 consecutive years and earned the respect of his colleagues and constituents for his dedicated leadership on civil rights, criminal justice, economic development, education, environmental policy, and workforce development. On November 8, 2016, Rodney Ellis was elected Harris County Commissioner for Precinct One, where he serves approximately 1.1 million people on a daily basis.

Commissioner Ellis is a strong supporter and graduate of Texas Southern University. For 25 years, Commissioner Ellis represented Texas Senate District 13, which TSU resides in. Recently, Commissioner Ellis has contributed over \$15 million in a partnership with the City of Houston to improve the roads around the University.

At his core, Commissioner Ellis believes that our government should ensure that all people, regardless of who they are, have equitable opportunity and ability to build a better future for themselves and for their family. As Harris County Commissioner, he is committed to this ideal by providing quality and accessible services and programs that enrich the lives of people in Precinct One and fighting for reforms that will benefit all Harris County residents.

Amidst all of his many accolades and achievements, he attributes being a husband to Mrs. Licia Green-Ellis and father to his four children as his greatest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Commissioner Ellis for receiving the Alumni Award and recognize all who organize and contribute to Texas Southern University's commitment to excellent education. I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Commissioner Ellis on his many years of service and honor his legacy and inspiration he has given to the people he has had the privilege of serving.

IN RECOGNITION OF HURON
VALLEY PACE'S NEW FACILITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Huron Valley PACE as they break ground on their new facility. They have served Michigan's seniors for years and will expand their services in this new facility.

Huron Valley PACE was established by two nonprofits, the United Methodist Retirement Communities and the Area Agency on Aging 1B, in order to provide an alternative to nursing home care. The organization's mission is to allow seniors to age with dignity and remain independent in their own homes, and every doctor and nurse at PACE seeks to live out that principle every day. Huron Valley PACE is based out of Ypsilanti, Michigan and serves seniors in Washtenaw County, as well as Monroe, Oakland, Livingston, and Wayne Counties. PACE serves all Michigan adults